

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00149 01 OF 02 111639Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10 MC-02 EB-11 DRC-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9158

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 0149

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: VISIT BY SA NAVAL OFFICERS

REF: STATE 245853

1. SOUTH AFRICAN NAVAL OFFICERS CARROL, BATEMAN AND SAAF OFFICER LOUBSCHER HAVE PERSISTED IN PLANS VISIT US DESPITE EFFORTS DISCOURAGE THEM INCLUDING INDICATION THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED VISIT PLANTS REQUIRING CLEARANCE. LT. CMDR. BATEMAN PERSONALLY SUBMITTED ON JAN 9 SA REGULAR PASSPORT (NON-OFFICIAL) AND APPLICATION FOR NON-IMMIGRANT VISA. STATED PURPOSE OF VISIT SAME AS IN INITIAL APPROACH BY CARROLL (PARA 3 PRETORIA 4546). EARLIER CMDR. CARROLL HAD INSISTED BATEMAN AND LOUBSCHER VISA REQUESTS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS, I.E. FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BUT THESE NOT RECEIVED. BATEMAN, CARROLL AND LOUBSCHER ARE NOW RPT NOW IN SAME STATUS, I.E. HAVE APPLIED FOR NIV'S ON NON-OFFICIAL PASSPORTS TRAVELLING ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS FOR SAG.

2. CARROLL VISITED CONGEN CAPE TOWN DEC. 20 AND WAS ASKED CONSIDER CANCELLING TRIP BASIS GUIDANCE STATE REFTEL. HE REPLIED HE WOULD WAIT FOR RESULTS COLLEAGUES' APPLICATIONS IN PRETORIA (NOTE: NEVER RECEIVED). BATEMAN SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED CONGEN DEC. 28 TO INQUIRE STATUS CARROLL VISA. WHEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 00149 01 OF 02 111639Z

SITUATION EXPLAINED, HE REPLIED THAT EVEN IF PERMISSION TO

VISIT US MILITARY INSTALLATION DENIED, THIS WOULD NOT RPT NOT SEEM TO PRECLUDE VISITS TO ENTIRELY COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS. STATED FURTHER THAT ALTHOUGH COMPUTER THEY WERE SEEKING COULD BE SEEN IN A LIVE ENVIRONMENT IN EUROPE, THE SINGER AND THE DATA PATHING, INC. MODELS WERE AVAILABLE IN LIVE ENVIRONMENT ONLY IN THE US, ADDING THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF USING VISIT TO "SNEAK" WEAPONS OUT OF THE US FOR USE IN SA; THEIR ONLY AIM WAS OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT VARIOUS COMPUTER MODELS IN LIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR WORKSHOP PURPOSES. IBM EMPLOYEE (SEE PARA 5) ALSO SOUGHT EQUATE VISIT TO VISIT BY THREE SA ARMY OFFICERS TO 3M IN UTAH IN MID-1973 TO LOOK AT COMPUTER PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT. (NOTE: EMBASSY UNABLE IDENTIFY THIS GROUP UNLESS IT INVOLVED SIDE TRIP OF LT. CMDR. VAN DER MERWE AND TWO WASHINGTON BASED OFFICERS PER STATE 134444 AND PREVIOUS.)

3. BATEMAN APPLICATION JAN 9 ON REGULAR PASSPORT APPARENTLY STEMS FROM ITALIAN VISA EXPERIENCE. ACCORDING BATEMAN, ITALIAN EMBASSY PRETORIA RELUCTANT ISSUE VISA IN SA OFFICIAL PASSPORT AND REQUESTED BATEMAN AND LOUBSCHER APPLY TO ITALIAN CONSULATE CAPE TOWN WITH REGULAR PASSPORTS. THIS WAS DONE AND BATEMAN VISA ISSUED JAN 7 WITH LOUBSCHER VISA EXPECTED FOLLOW. ITALIAN CONSULATE CAPE TOWN CONFIRMED BATEMAN STATEMENT RE ITALIAN VISA. APPROVAL FOR TRAVEL TO ITALY BY SADF PERSONNEL MUST COME FROM MFA ROME. THIS WOULD HAVE DELAYED ISSUANCE. SINCE APPLICANTS WERE IN HURRY, ITALIAN EMBASSY PRETORIA ASSISTANCE TO SADF "PRAGMATIC THOUGH POSSIBLY NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROME."

4. BATEMAN ALSO SHOWED CONSULAR OFFICER UNCLASSIFIED CABLE FROM SA NAVAL ATTACHE WASHINGTON TO CHIEF OF NAVY SIMONSTOWN STATING THAT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY FROM AUTHORITIES REGARDING VISIT TO US INSTALLATIONS BY THE THREE OFFICERS.

5. MEANWHILE, CIVILIAN JACOBUS ADRIANUS WOLF, EMPLOYEE OF IBM, SUBMITTED VISA APPLICATION IN CAPE TOWN AND WAS INTERVIEWED JAN 8. HE ADMITTED TRAVELLING COMPANIONS WERE CARROLL AND COMPANY. WHEN REQUESTED TO SUBMIT DETAILED STATEMENT PURPOSE TRIP, HE PRODUCED LETTER FROM IBM STATING THAT WOLF REQUIRED VISIT US FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES AND THAT "PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO ACCOMPANY MEMBERS OF THE SADF ON A PROJECT EVALUATION TOUR ... SERVE AS LIAISON BETWEEN IBM AND THE SADF MEMBERS IN SITUATION WHERE THE COMPANY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 00149 01 OF 02 111639Z

WILL BE INVOLVED." WHEN SITUATION EXPLAINED TO HIM, WOLF INDICATED COMPANY WOULD WISH HIM VISIT US IN ANY EVENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED WITH TELEX FROM IBM SOUTH AFRICA HEAD OFFICE INSTRUCTING HIM VISIT FEDERAL SYSTEMS DIVISION IN NEW YORK AND PLANT IN NORTH CAROLINA FOR PURPOSES NOT CONNECTED VISIT SA NAVAL PERSONNEL. TELEX STATED SPECIFICALLY WOLF TRIP WOULD TAKE PLACE WHETHER NAVY PERSONNEL GO TO US OR NOT. ON BASIS NEW APPLICATION B-1 VISA ISSUED.

6. RE PARA 2 STATE REFTEL, CONGEN JOHANNESBURG HAS CHECKED WITH IBM AT TECHNICAL LEVEL AND LEARNED THAT THE IBM 357 RPT IBM 357 SYSTEM IS THE HEART OF THE IBM FLOOR DATA CAPTURE SYSTEM. A SIMILAR SYSTEM IS SOLD BY EVERY COMPANY DEALING IN COMPUTERS. THEY HAVE BEEN SOLD IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1960 AND ARE USED EXTENSIVELY IN AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLY LINES. IBM SOURCE INDICATED NO FURTHER DESIGNATION OF SUCH A SYSTEM IS POSSIBLE INASMUCH AS EACH SYSTEM IS TAILORED FOR A UNIQUE PLANT. ALSO INDICATED IT IS POSSIBLE TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT SUCH A SYSTEM FROM AVAILABLE HARDWARE IN SA. POSSIBLY LICENSING AUTHORITIES CAN RELATE IBM 357 SYSTEM TO DIVIDING LINE AS BETWEEN CONTROLLED (VALIDATED) AND GENERAL LICENSE. APPARENTLY SIMONSTOWN SYSTEM FROM WHOMSOEVER ULTIMATELY PROCURED WILL BE PUT TOGETHER LOCALLY, PRESUMABLY REQUIRING SOME IMPORT IN PAST OR FUTURE OF SOME COMPONENTS FROM ULTIMATE SOURCE. VISIT REPORTEDLY AN EVALUATION OF BOTH US AND EUROPEAN COMPANY SYSTEMS.

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00149 02 OF 02 111646Z

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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 0149

7. SADF PARTY PLANS DEPART CAPE TOWN JAN 17. IT OBVIOUS APPLICANTS WILL NOT BE DISSUADED BY ARGUMENTATION DIRECTLY WITH THEM, LEAVING FOLLOWING APPARENT RANGE OF OPTIONS:

(A) ISSUE ROUTINE B-1 VISAS IN REGULAR PASSPORTS, STRESSING THAT VISITS INSTALLATIONS REQUIRING CLEARANCE PRECLUDED.

(B) DELIBERATELY DELAY ACTION UNTIL GROUP MUST DEPART ON TOUR WHICH INCLUDES EUROPEAN POINTS, NOTING AS NECESSARY UNRESOLVED

ISSUES AND REFERRAL. (IN SUCH CASE, OTHER POSTS WOULD NEED BE ALERTED SINCE APPLICATION ALONG WAY NOT OUT OF QUESTION.) BASIC PROBLEM WOULD STILL REMAIN AND EMBASSY FINDS THIS OPTION UNDERSIRABLE.

(C) AS A VARIATION OF (B) INFORM APPLICANTS THAT VISAS FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS SHOULD BE REQUESTED THROUGH DFA NOTE, WHILE CAUTIONING THAT SAME PROBLEMS PERSIST. (WE ARE STRUCK BY FACT DFA DID NOT FORWARD REQUESTS AS HAS BEEN NORMAL PRACTICE AND MAY NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF PROBLEM.)

(D) APPROACH DFA WITH VIEW GETTING APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN, STATING WE WOULD RATHER SEE THIS HAPPEN THAN HAVE TO CONSIDER REFUSAL.

(E) REFUSE VISAS (ALTHOUGH ON WHAT LEGISLATIVE GROUNDS THIS WOULD BE DONE IS NOT CLEAR), POSSIBLY POINTING OUT THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 00149 02 OF 02 111646Z

BUSINESS CATEGORY

(B-1) PURPOSE HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ACCEPTABLE IN ALL ITS ASPECTS AND THAT THIS DOES NOT REFLECT ON THEIR ELIGIBILITY AS INDIVIDUALS FOR VISITS FOR PLEASURE OR FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS CONNECTED WITH THE SA MISSION IN THE US. THIS TOO WE SEE AS UNPALATABLE OPTION.

8. DESIRABILITY SEEKING DISCOURAGE VISIT IN VIEW OUR GENERAL EMBARGO POLICY AND LIMITATIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH MILITARY CLEAR. REFUSAL VISAS IS OBVIOUSLY MORE DIFFICULT ISSUE. APPLICANTS HAVE NOW EXPERIENCED BARRIER IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE APPLICABILITY EMBARGO TO EQUIPMENT INVOLVED AND INDICATION SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR DEFENSE CONNECTED PLANTS NOT FORTHCOMING. THEY HAVE SOUGHT PUT VISIT IN CONTEXT STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL CONTACT. REFUSAL COULD THUS BE INTERPRETED AS BASED ON PRINCIPLE OF EXCLUDING A CATEGORY, A PRINCIPLE WE HAVE IN THE PAST CONTESTED WITH SAG, SUCH AS PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AS A CATEGORY. APPROACH TO DFA PER 7 (D) ABOVE LIKELY INVOLVE US IN THIS ASPECT ALTHOUGH WE CAN ADDUCE COUNTER ARGUMENTS. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION WE SHOULD MENTION IS THAT COMPANIES SUCH AS IBM CLAIM THAT INHIBITIONS ON AMERICAN COMPANY ACTIVITIES HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THEIR POSITION ON OTHER BUSINESS. AT SAME TIME, ISSUANCE VISAS RUNS RISK OF BEING A MISLEADING SIGNAL TO VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN SAG AS TO SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE APPLY EMBARGO. IT PROBLEMATIC WHETHER SADF AND POSSIBLY OTHER ELEMENTS PUSHING THIS AS A TEST OF US POSITION OR IT MERELY AN INTEREST IN VERIFYING MERITS OF COMPETITIVE SYSTEMS BEING OFFERED LOCALLY. ADDITIONALLY TOURS OF LARGE ACTIVE PLANTS WITH DETAILED STUDY OF SYSTEMS BY SADF OFFICERS MAY RAISE QUESTIONS IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE RE OUR EMBARGO POLICY, WHICH CONCERNS MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE ALLAYED BY FACT OFFICIAL CONTACT AND FACILITATION DENIED.

9. WE APPRECIATE THAT GUIDELINES ON VISITS DO NOT PRECLUDE
ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO MILITARY OFFICERS ALTHOUGH SEEKING TO
LIMIT THEM. THIS IS A GRAY AREA WITH A NUMBER OF THE CONSIDER-
ATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE BEST EVALUATED FROM WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVE.
PLEASE ADVISE.
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